

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: MONTANA
GRANT TITLE: Montana Coordinated Bird Monitoring
AGREEMENT: T - 8 - 2
PERIOD COVERED: January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005

Objective

The objective of this grant was to provide data for one component of the “Montana Integrated Avian Monitoring Plan,” including baseline and long-term trend data, basic habitat associations, and targeted habitat relationships.

Location

Riparian surveys were conducted in western Montana, in the Clark Fork, Flathead, and Big Hole watersheds. Riparian transects were located in Flathead, Lake, Sanders, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Deer Lodge, and Beaverhead counties.

Accomplishments

The objective was met successfully. Long-term monitoring sites were established within the riparian zones within 5 watersheds in western Montana and point count bird surveys were conducted at each site. Data on vegetation structure and composition was collected at each point-count station for use in developing habitat models for birds in riparian habitats. In addition, a riparian monitoring plan and protocols for the Montana Coordinated All-Bird Monitoring Plan were finalized, based on findings produced by segments 1 and 2 of this grant.

Two of the five selected watersheds (Bitterroot and Big Hole) were identified in Montana’s Comprehensive Strategy as high aquatic priorities (Tier 1). Within each of these 5 watersheds, at least 10 riparian patches were selected and 1-8 point count stations were established within each patch. A total of 56 riparian patches containing 172 points were surveyed twice during the breeding season. A total of 1,556 birds were detected, representing 99 bird species. The yellow warbler was the most frequently encountered species and was more than twice as abundant as the next most common species. The next most common species were the brown-headed cowbird, American robin, western wood peewee and song sparrow. All bird survey data is included in the attached report and will soon be downloadable at http://avianscience.dbs.umt.edu/research_riparian.htm. Avian Science Center staff are currently analyzing factors that influence distribution of birds in riparian habitat, at local and regional scales, and developing models that will be used to predict species occurrence, density and species richness as a function of local, patch and landscape measures.

Variances

The North Fork of the Flathead watershed was originally selected for survey but was replaced by the Lower Flathead watershed after it became apparent in the spring of 2005 that high spring runoff precluded safe access to most riparian habitats in the North Fork of the Flathead watershed.

Expenditure Recap:

Proposed:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	49,177.00		19,337.04		68,514.04
Indirect Costs	8,835.11				8,835.11
Total	58,012.11	75.0%	19,337.04	25.0%	77,349.15

Final Expenditures:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	48,607.12		19,116.54		67,723.66
Indirect Costs	8,723.30				8,723.30
Total	57,330.42	75.0%	19,116.54	25.0%	76,446.96

Expenditure Detail:

Item	Estimated		Actual
Personnel:	34,713	Salaries	25,277.55
Data Entry		Benefits	11,087.60
Data Coordinator		Contracted Services	3,030.00
Field Crew		Supplies	392.70
Travel	6,350	Communications	87.03
Communications	200	Travel	2,342.77
Minor Field Supplies	1,500	U of MT Overhead	6,389.47
U of MT Overhead	6,414		
Total	\$ 49,177	Total	\$ 48,607.12

The non-federal match was contributed by the University of Montana (waived overhead - \$12,766.54) and Plum Creek Timber (cash - \$4,750 and in-kind \$1,600). The Plum Creek portion was used to off set travel expenses and for additional bird surveys.

Project Personnel

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